

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02130 091736Z

50

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

NIC-01 SR-02 ORM-01 EUR-12 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 ARAE-00 /113 W
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P 091700Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2811

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1059

US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 636

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2130

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SOCI

SUBJ: CHILE -- RELEASE OF DETAINEES

REF: SANTIAGO 2096 (NOTAL): SANTIAGO 2027

1. SANTIAGO PRESS APRIL 8-9 CARRIED SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY CHILEAN CHARGE IN BONN PABLO VALDES ON RELEASE OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN CHILE. STORY FEATURED ASSURANCE GOC WOULD LIBERATE "WITHIN A FEW MONTHS" SOME 4,600 DETAINEES, MOST OF WHOM WOULD BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY. STATEMENT FURTHER SAID TWO GROUPS OF PRISONERS WERE INVOLVED: ONE NUMBERING 1,107 PERSONS UNDER SPECIAL ARREST (THAT IS, HELD WITHOUT CHARGES UNDER STATE OF SIEGE REGULATIONS), THE OTHER NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY 3,500 WHO WOULD BE FREED EVENTUALLY, AFTER LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING THEM WERE CONCLUDED.

2. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, THIS NEW STAGE IN LIBERALIZATION
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 02130 091736Z

OF GOC DETAINEE POLICY IS RELATED TO GOC EFFORT TO TAP

GERMAN CREDIT WHICH GOC CONTENTS SHOULD BE FORTH-COMING AS RESULT OF 1973 FRG COMMITMENT. PRIME MOVER HERE HAS BEEN MIN ECON COORD RAUL SAEZ, WHO TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 9 HE THOUGHT CHILEAN CHARGE STATEMENT HAD HAD A GOOD IMPACT.

3. AMBASSADOR URGED SAEZ TO HAVE GOC ISSUE SIMILAR STATEMENT IN SANTIAGO, SO THAT IT MIGHT RECEIVE PROPER ATTENTION IN CHILE AND ABROAD. SAEZ SAID HE WOULD TRY TO DO SO, ADDING THAT HE HOPED GOC WOULD PUBLISH ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES OF THE 1,107 DETAINEES HELD UNDER STATE OF SIEGE, SO THAT RELEASE INTO EXILE OF THOSE WILLING TO GO COULD BE EXPEDITED.

4. HITHERTO GOC HAS INSISTED THAT DETAINEES MUST GO INTO EXILE AS CONDITION OF RELEASE. INCREASING RELUCTANCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO RECEIVE THEM EN MASSE HAS REDUCED RELEASES TO A TRICKLE. IF GOC HAS ACTUALLY DECIDED TO FREE THE BULK OF ITS POLITICAL PRISONERS WITHOUT REQUIRING THEM TO LEAVE COUNTRY, NUMBERS OF THOSE KEPT IN DETENTION COULD FALL SHARPLY WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME.

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